

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /049 W

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P R 131703Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5236

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

DOD WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, NI

SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT FOR TWO NIEGERIAN NAVAL

VESSELS

1. AMBASSADOR AHMADU-SUKA OF NIGERIA CALLED ME ON 11 FEBRUARY TO ASK IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO KANO NIGERIA FOR TWO BOATS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY A DUTCH FIRM FOR THE NIEGERIAN GOVERNMENT. EACH VESSEL WEIGHTS 20 TONS AND OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS (IN METERS) ARE 18.5L X 3.5H X 4.5W.

2. AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST WAS MADE AT THE DIRECTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PLANNING A FORMAL DEDICATION OF A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LAKE NEAR KANO ON 26 FEBRUARY. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE THE VESSELS IN PLACE ON THE LAKE FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY. AMBASSADOR AHMADU-SUKA WAS ADVISED THAT IF U.S. COULD MEET REQUEST, AIR TRANSPORTATION FURNISHED WOULD ONLY BE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS AND WOULD BE EXPENSIVE. AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT COST APPARENTLY WAS NOT A CONCERN.

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3. THE 26 FEBRUARY DATE PRECLUDES ANY CONSIDERATION

OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION. POSSIBILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORTATION ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. PANAM CANNOT HANDLE. KLM HAS NO PLANE THAT CAN HANDLE EITHER BUT IS CHECKING INTO CHARTER OF QTE SUPER GUPPY UNQTE FROM FRENCH AND WILL ADVISE US FEB 14.

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT APPROVAL OF MILITARY AIRLIFT IN SUCH CASES IS CONTINGENT ON DETERMINATION BY SECSTATE AND DOD THAT IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. IN VIEW OF THE POSITION OF NIGERIA AS AN OIL EXPORTING NATION WE ARE FORWARDING AIRLIFT REQUEST, BUT DEFER ENTIRELY TO EMBASSY LAGOS'S EVALUATION AS TO WHETHER USG SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO MEET REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF THE EXTREMELY SHORT TIME REMAINING WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPEDITIOUS REPLY.

GOULD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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